



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. JUDGE SENTENCES EX-SPRING VALLEY TAX PREPARER  
TO 27 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR PREPARING FALSE RETURNS**

JAMES COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that FORREST MONK was sentenced in White Plains federal court late yesterday to 27 months in jail for preparing false tax returns for clients of his tax preparation business.

MONK, the owner of Monk's Tax Service in Spring Valley, New York, in the mid- 1990's, was convicted on February 6, 2003, on 14 counts of aiding and assisting the preparation of false federal income tax returns for his clients. The evidence presented during the trial established that MONK falsely inflated or completely fabricated deductions for items such as job-related expenses and charitable contributions on returns he prepared for his clients in 1996 and 1997.

As a result of the false or inflated deductions, the returns which MONK prepared falsely understated the his clients' tax liabilities by more than \$79,000 in aggregate.

United States District Judge CHARLES L. BRIEANT noted that the offenses for which MONK had been convicted were serious crimes and that MONK's conduct demanded a sentence which would not trivialize the crimes, effect general deterrence and protect honest taxpayers and tax preparers.

Mr. COMEY praised the work of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

Special Assistant United States Attorneys ANDREW J. KAMEROS and KAREN E. KELLY are in charge of the prosecution.

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